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WASHINGTON REPORT

Anti-Red Cuban News Service Forced To Quit

By Ralph de Toledano

Washington

THE CUBAN Information Service—which means Carlos Todd and a group of devoted assistants—has been forced to cease publication of its invaluable newsletter. This may sound minor. But it is of the utmost importance. For the CIS has been the most accurate reporter of events in Cuba under Fidel Castro.



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Week after week, it has been an authentic voice of conscience and truth. Where the great news-gathering agencies and the important newspapers have failed to know or tell the truth about Fidel Castro's Cuba, the Cuban Information Service has presented and documented the facts. It has reached out to 27 countries, to over 700 newspapers and 1,000 radio and television stations from one end of the Western Hemisphere to another.

THE CENTRAL Intelligence Agency has paid serious attention to the CIS reports. Newspapermen have been able to find solid substantiation for their stories on Cuba. Fresh and vital information has appeared in the multi-graphed pages of the CIS newsletter long before the news media have gotten around to it.

Perhaps more important, Cubans and Americans have derived nourishment from the news found in the CIS newsletter. It has helped to keep alive the spirit of rebellion within the Castro Communist prison-island, and the spirit of faith among the Cuban exiles. This, in itself, was enough to warrant continued publication. But the college libraries, the members of Congress, the diplomats and the student organizations which received the CIS newsletter

without cost could add a word concerning their indebtedness.

The Cuban Information Service is dead because it has run out of money. Voluntary contributions have not been enough to keep the operation going.

The unpaid help of those who realized its worth has not been sufficient to sustain the newsletter. Its editor has been forced to realize that he must, from time to time, act.

And the CIA, which scatters its billions as it will, with no check from Congress, cannot find it in its heart to aid CIS. CIA has embarked on some wild adventures—all expensive—overseas. But it cannot extend a helping hand to the Cuban Information Service.

What then is the result? And who will profit?

THE STEADY but vital flow of information on Soviet moves in Cuba will dry up. No longer will correspondents learn of military activities on the island, of the clandestine shipment of arms, of the growing command of Cuban armed forces by the Soviet military, of the battles between freedom guerrillas and Castro's mercenaries. The net gain will be to the Communists, for every scrap of information on Cuba is detrimental to the Reds. What the Castro Communists are doing to subvert this hemisphere will be forgotten.

But this need not be. If there are enough Americans who realize the importance of keeping the news lanes open, of encouraging a 24-hour alert, and of not letting the Cuban issue die, then the Cuban Information Service can be revived. If you agree, then write to Carlos Todd at 5807 Ponce de Leon Boulevard in Coral Gables, Fla. Urge him to continue his work. And contribute enough so that the cost of educating all of us in this hour of our peril will not fall to a single, dedicated man.

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